


February 14, 2005

TO: Stephen J. Hadley
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld 
SUBJECT: Ideas for the NSC Process

Steve,

We might want to consider some different approaches for the NSC process to make it somewhat more efficient.

First, it seems to me we could ~~get~~ more ~~out~~ of ~~the~~ Deputies Committee meetings if the Deputies actually attended. Between Paul Wolfowitz, Bob Zoellick, and J. D. Crouch, the Deputies have real intellectual firepower and experience. Why not take advantage of that and have the Deputies actually populate the Deputies Committee, and you should chair it.

Second, consider having no more than one Principals Committee meeting a week. We can use our morning phone calls and the weekly lunch with the Vice President to deal with many matters. We have worked together for four years now, so it is not as though we need to get acquainted. If more than one PC per week is needed it can be done by SVTC and I can save an hour of travel time.

Finally, ~~try~~ to schedule only one NSC meeting a week. We can have more if it is needed. By properly using the Deputies and Principals Committees as suggested above, we should be able to get down to a single NSC most weeks, absent emergencies.

Let me know what you think.

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